ON THE DRAWING BOARD

GATEWAY COMIC BOOK FAN CLUB

VOLUME 2
NO.3

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ACBFC.

Alan Hutchinson

ST. LOUIS'
NATION WIDE ~
COMIC ART CON ~

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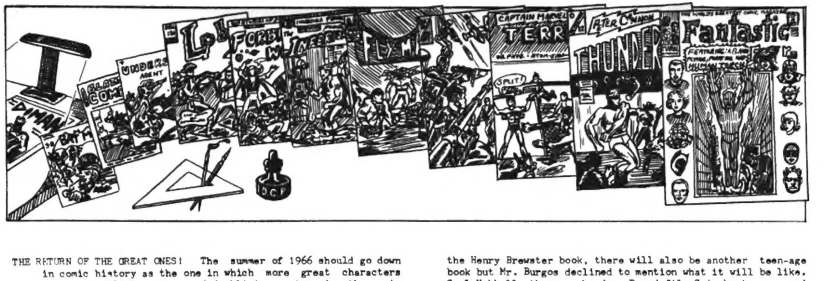
MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS AT THE
GATEWAY CON I !!!
EVERYONE IN FANDOM IS GOING !!!

- ✓ DATE: JULY 29-30-31, 1966 ~
- ✓ PRICE: (REGISTRATION) $2.00 ~
- ✓ FREE: TABLE SPACE FOR ALL DEALERS WHO REGISTER IN ADVANCE ~
- ✓ SPEAKER: REED CRANDALL ~
- ✓ ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION: GLEN JOHNSON, BILJO WHITE, STEVE GERBER, and DERRILL ROTHERMICH ~
- ✓ GREAT DOOR PRIZE: ORIGINAL ART ~
- ✓ FAN BANQUET: ATTEND ~

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING OR PARTICIPATING IN THE DISCUSSION, SEND A LARGE S.A.E. TO:

ROBERT SCHOENFELD, 9516 MINERVA, ST. LOUIS, MO. 63114 ~



THE RETURN OF THE GREAT ONES! The summer of 1966 should go down in comic history as the one in which more great characters came out of Limbo or suspended oblivion to give the comic readers of America some great moments of comic book reading and enjoyment. You already know about Mandrake and Flash Gordon coming out in their own books from the King Comics Group. And I told you last issue about the 25¢ book from the new Harvey line featuring the return of the FightingAmerican with 40 new pages of reading and art to have a ball with. But... there is much more. Over at National, PLASTIC MAN comesout of LIMBO for the first time in years. He gets his own book and it will be out soon. Gil Kane has been handed the job of doing the art on it while Arnold Drake will be handling the scripting. People have been asking for if for a long time, and Julius Schwarts finally worked out the right way to do it. I mean, of course, the return of ALFRED to the Batman book. You can read all about it in Detective #357. The story is called the "Inside Story of the Outsider!" At Harvey, they have been working on their new line like crazy for the past few months and they have come up with some great characters for everyone in Fandom to enjoy. But the old timers will be sending them bouquets for the big item they were able to get back out of LIMBO. The name of the character is the SPIRIT and it will be by will Eisner himself. How they managed it, I'll never know! I just know that this 25¢ book should be the collector's item of the summer! (I take that back! There will be too many collector's items out this summer to count!) Marvel wasn't one to let a good thing lay dormant too long. And that's why the ORIGINAL HUMAN TORCH will be back this summer in the Fantastic Four Annual. Johnny Storm will battle the first flaming fury in the main story and then later in the book you'll be able to see the origin story exactly as it appeared years ago in Marvel Mystery #1. And if that isn't enough, pick up their special SUPER HEROES Annual. The first Human Torch-Submariner battle from the 40's will be reprinted for all the fans that have never seen it. How's that for a summer schedule of specials? Looks like it's revival time in Comicdom!

THE DARING DEMONS FROM DELL. Those monster men with super talents will be sprouting up all over the newstands with the Dell insignis on them. The second issue of the Dracula book will have the vampire hero battling a villain that is usingnuclear airships to create fantastic weather disasters all over the USA. The first issue of the Werewolf here will whow the origin of the hairy hero and how he becomes an agent for the CIA in order to work against secret missile bases in Cuba. Getting away from the monster kick, Dell will put out a new title called Superheroes (or that is what they said it would be called). This features a group called the FAB 4. Four teenagers find that they are able to transmute their minds into the unprogramed forms of four androids and use them to perform super feats. Nukla is still in the shadows until some firm decision is made about keeping him or sending him off to Limbo.

CARL BURGOS AND THE COUNTRY WIDE BOOKS. Carl Burgos is working on his comics with a definite age group in mind. He is aiming his books at the 9-14 year old group and hope to capture them by using material in his adventures which will be taken from scientific material and historical events. All the modern scientific equipment and discoveries will be used and time travel will be used to add historical backgrounds to the stories. In the adventure line he has the Captain Marvel book and the Captain Marvel Presents book. This latter will be used to develop new characters and test their appeal with the market. The next Presents book will feature Tinyman and show him turning straight and becoming a prominent attorney and district attorney. Eventually most of the villains used in the Terrible Five book will be reformed until only the most malevolent of them will remain to give them trouble. Besides the Henry Brewster book, there will also be another teen-age book but Mr. Burgos declined to mention what it will be like. Carl Hubbell, the man who drew Daredevil, Crimebuster, and Sniffer for Charles Biro in the 40's, is doing work for Burgos and will be doing more!

THE ARCHIE RADIO HEROES. The September Flyman #29 will feature the Flyman against the Blockbuster while the last half of the book will use the Steel Sterling strip from their paperback book. The first chapter will appear here and be continued in Mighty Crusaders #7 for October. Crusaders will also have a smaller Crusaders tale as well as a five page origin of one of their Ultra Heroes. They have a 25¢ reprint book due for late summer using many of the best tales of the past year. In this book will be Flyman, the Web, Shield and the Crusaders against the Spider. The editor has ideas of revamping many of the characters and using them in new books that they have ideas of putting out sometime next year.

THE KING BOOKS FOR SEPTEMBER. When that Flash Gordon #1 appears, I suggest you get a few copies of it to store away to show to your children. It is the only book that Al Williamson was able to do for them and he comes very close to the Alex Raymond style of art in this book. It may even by like Tsundra #1 by Frazetta! A rare collector's item! The second issue will be by Frank Bolle, the Dr. Solar artist, and these two stories were written by Archie Goodwin. Titles at this date stand as The Deathtrap of Mongo and the Monster From the Depths of Kongo. Ming may be brought back in this issue but I couldn't get a definite yes or no to that question. Cover was done by Gil Kane. Mandrake and the Phatom are both being written by Lee Falk. Bill Lignante will be doing the art on a Falk tale in which an astronaut becomes lost in the jungles and is saved by the Phantom. Gil Kane also did a 4 page filler for this book. Andre Le Blanc will do the artwork on the Mandrake books when the hypnotic wizard has to stop a group of illegal gamblers using a dirigible for a gambling casino beyond the five mile limit--only straight up! Falk at this time is in Italy doing the script for the Mandrake film that I reported about in this column many months ago.

DOC SAVAGE IN PAPERBACK AND IN COMIC BOOK FORM. Bantam has two books set for the next few months. In July,they will release The Quest Of Qui featuring the Bronze Man. In September, Doc Savage and his crew will wind up in The Land of Always Night. Gold Key definitely has the rights to the Doc Savage book and already has adapted the Man With A Thousand Heads for the first comic edition of Doc Savage from their presses.

THOSE HARVEY HEROES AT LONG LAST! Joe Simon has been working under strict secrecy for the longest while with some of the best talents in the comic book field. You'll find art by Wally Wood, Steranko, and many others. And until I get a release from the great writers that have been doing work for him, you will just have to take my word that he has real pros doing their best on all his books. The Harvey line will feature 10 titles with many featuring super characters as well as some war and sci-fi titles. The two large books of the Fighting American and Spirit have already been mentioned. There will be a WAR Front title with art by Wally Wood. A regular feature has been scheduled for this book but he won't debut until the second issue. In the sci-fi book, the first issue is to feature several tales. But the second book deepens The Miracles Inc. tale into a complete book and it looks like the steady strip for this book. In the other eight books you'll find characters like the Jigsaw who will be able to change his body structure to turn into anything the way the old Plastic Man used to do. But this all comes about because scientists from another universe put him back together after he has been splattered all over the moon's landscape. SPYMAN will be an agent of the Liberty Agents who have their head-

quarters inside the Statue of Liberty. Spyman loses his hands in an accident and is equiped with electro-robot hands, each finger of which has different powers. Other characters that are scheduled to appear are...pirana, a water-breathing hero, the Sorceress, with lots of magic powers to ward off evil of all forms, the Man from Sram and so on. And I think letters are in order to tell the Harvey people what we think of these books when they appear.

LEE'S LEGENDS. Annuals can get to be pretty stale unless you can gind extra special material to put in them. And that's just exactly what the Marvel Madmen have done. Besides the original Human Torch-Submariner battle in SUPERHEROES ANNUAL #1, you'll be able to see Everett's first Daredevil again and an exciting Avenger strip. The Spiderman Annual will find the webhead up to his neck in super heroes to battle as well as the green mass known as the Hulk. Spidey versus the Avengers looks like great stuff. And as I already wrote, the original Human Torch is back in the Fantastic Four Annual while Fantasy Masterpieces #5 will feature strips from Captain America #5 including the original Ringmaster story. In the Thor Annual, Loki is able to send his magic powers through space and reactivate The Destroyer so that Thor faces the robotic once again in a gigantic tale. In the regular monthly lineup, The Silver Surfer will be back to give the Thing some lumps, Spidey will meet the Rhino, Daredevil will pit his wits against the Owl again, the X-Men will be plagued by the Locust and Captain America will be trying to find out who his enemy real ly is because the Adaptoid can change into anyone. Dr Strange will be weakening under the spell of Umar, the loveliest bit of feminine evilness to grace the pages of a Marvel book,while the Sub-mariner and the Hulk are both working against the character known as Number One for a few more issues.

MAGAZINES TO PICK UP FOR THOSE INTERESTED! Esquire for September is running a large spread on comic books and much of it will be about the Marvel group. There will also be some new art used in this article and every Marvel fan as well as all Comic Fans should get this issue. P. S. #4 will be featuring articles on Max Brand, the King of Pulps and Tarzan and Edgar Rice Burroughs. Scolastic Scope for March 25, 1966 featured a six page spread on the comics, both in the newspapers and in the comic books. While not great, still very interesting. CRACKED #53 did an interesting parody on Superheroes called Dapperman. Severin did some great art for this feature and it's a pity he isn't doing any more comic book work for the regular comic companies. He's great!

THE GREATS FROM GOLD KEY! The September Man From U.N.C.L.E. has Ilya and Napoleon trying to recover the Spirit of St. Louis after Thrush agents have stolen it from the Smithsonian Institute. Jet Dream and her crew of cuties will have to try to tame a super tiger that same issue. Doctor Solar for September has the return of the Atom facing Nuro again. Only this time Nuro is using mechanical scorpions and hypnotic powers against our atomic hero. Turok for the next few issues will be mainly reprints of very early tales. And this summer a Turok Giant featuring some of the earliest stories will also appear. For those favoring TV characters, Gold Key has many titles featuring some of your favorites. Jim West finds himself battling zombies when a genius tries to take over New Orleans in GK's Wild,Wild West book. Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea will find the crew of the Seaview hauling the huge sea overland when it becomes locked inland because of a freak event. And the Cartwrights have To Dare of To Die in the latest issue of Bonanza. Secret Agent, based on theSaturday TV show, finds our hero roaming Africa to find a missing atomic bomb that was dropped there. He faces many other secret agents of other powers when they all go looking for The Panic Package! Persons liking weird tales should have a goat three titles in the GK lineup. Boris Karloff Tales will feature The Magic Pillow which allows the man that owns it to travel anyplace he imagines. Twilight Zone has a story about a man who changes his identity every time he changes his clothes. And Ripley's True Ghost Stories has three juicy chillers in store...The Skeletons that Could Not Die!, The Thing With Claws! and Double-Image! And if you're old enough to remember, Gold Key has bought the rights to G-8 and his Battle Aces to adapt for comic book format. This aviation war series was quite popular in the pulps of the late thirties and early fourties. It may be popular again once the fans find it on the stands.

THE LATEST FROM NATIONAL. Before getting started on the new releases, I'd like to mention that three titles are being dropped from the regular schedules soon. Mystery In Space, House of Secrets and All-American Men of War have all been discontinued so that new titles can be made available soon. If you want new books such as Plastic Man or the Inferior Five, then somethings got to go. Weisingers Wonders have many things of interest to all fans. In Action #342, Superman teams up with Brainiac to save the earth from a Super Human Bomb. Adventure #349 has five of the Legionaires chasing a villain named Universo through five different eras of time in order to stop him. Jimmy Olsen battles it out with a villain having powers greater than Superman in his own book #97. In Lois Lane #69, Lois, the lovely newshound, becomes Bug Belle! The Element Enemies teamup against Superman in #190 when Supey has only half his powers. And in Superboy #133, Mort has reprinted the tale that appeared in Adventure many years ago when Robin met Superboy. Kanigher's crew has whipped up a number of fine tales for this coming month. The Metal Men get turned into humans when they face the Attack of the Sizzler in #22. Star Spangled War Stories #129 has another Dinosaur tale called My Brother With Wings! Our Fighting Forces #103 has Captain Hunter in The Death Tunnels of Viet Nam! And the crew of the Haunted Tank have to pull a Tiger's Tale in GI Combat #120. Wonder Woman #165 has the Amazon Ace facing the perils of the Paper Man in one tale while we get to see the Three Fantastic Faces of Wonder Woman. See if you can guess which of these two tales was written by Bill Finger. Sgt. Rock in Our Army at War #172 duels it out with his Nazi counterpart because combat just wasn't tough enough! Schwartz turns GL into a solid gold statue in issue #48 when we see Goldface's Grudge Fight Against GL. Hawkman is brought to the lost city of Quaranda by winged gorillas in #16 when the Winged Wonders meet the Lord of the Flying Gorillas! And the Atom meets up with The Beauty and the Beast Gang in issue #27. George Kashdan teams up with Batman and Metamorpho in Brave And Bold #66 and he brings in all of Batman's best villains also. In Blackhawk #225, Queen Killer Shark is back to tempt Blackhawk to crime and death. Jack Schiff has Robby Reed face the Monster Maker of Littleville while the Martian Manhunter discovers the Lair of Mr. Y in House of Mystery. Automan returns in Tales of the Unexpected #97 to face Mutant Man. And Strange Adventures features the Villain Make and Zomsu, the Cave Colossus. Variety is what you get from Murray Boltinoff each month. There's sun, surf and Super-Hip in a tale of the Anti Bikini Meanie in Bob Hope #101. The Fox and the Crow shows Stanley visiting a psychiatrist who goes nuts himself when he learns that Stanley's Monster is this 100th issue. Willo returns in Challengers #52 in a tale called "Two are Dead--Two to Go!" And Sugar becomes the Queen of the Goblins in Sugar and Spike #67.

ALL ABOUT THE NEWSPAPER STRIP ARTISTS AND THEIR CHARACTERS. Charlie Brown's All-Stars will be featured in a half hour special on CBS in the evening of June 8th. Then later in 1967, Coca Cola will present a Halloween special featuring the Great Pumpkin. Jack Richard and Mell Lazarus have a new strip, daily and Sunday, called Pauline McPeril in many papers around the country. Lagarus is going under the pen name of Fulton for this strip about the comics' first non-heroine heroine. Lazarus already does the very funny Miss Peach strip while Richard is a contributor of MAD magazine and is also working on a book called "A Little Madness Helps." On July 1, the Post Office will issue a stamp commemorating the 177th anniversary of the Bill of Rights. What's so unusual about this stamp is that it was designed by Herbert L. Block, the editorial cartoonist for the Washington Post. Gladys Parker, the creator of the Mopsy comic strip, passed away on April 27th. Harold Gray and Fred Johnson are known for their work on Little Orphan Annie and Moon Mullins respectively, have given over 40 years of their original strips to the Boston University Library. The head of the library's Special Collections said that the strips have become vital parts of the American culture. Charles Schults has another Peanuts book out in hardback at this time. It is all about Charlie Brown and his baseball team. The book costs $2.50 and can be ordered from World Publishing Company, 2231 West 100th Street, Cleveland, Ohio. The Sunday comic strip OUT OUR WAY has done something very unique in cartooning newspaper history. Two artists are handling different families in the same strip. Both families are named Willet but Neg Cochran handles the art on the old Willet Family while Walt Wetterberg is doing all the work on the new Willet family introduced into the strip. The reason for this is that Cochran needs more time to work on the daily strip which is syndicated to 600 papers around the country.

THAT ART AUCTION... Last issue, I wrote about an auction of art done by newspaper cartoonists to be held May 5 and 6 in New York City. Your reporter went to that auction to see what workds would be up for bid and what cartoonists would be present to make the evening more interesting. Of the two nights the highest price paid for any one work of art was $300 for a 1932 Rube Goldberg cartoon of Bob McNutt that was published in 1932. This was an unusual piece of cartooning in that it was inked in color. A Flash Gordon Sunday strip by Raboy, yet identified on the program as Barry, went for $25. Mandrake the Magician by the late Phil Davis went for $17.50. A

Hal Foster Prince Valiant in a large Sunday format went for $80. Milt Caniff's Steve Canyon went for $40. And a Barry Phantom with 4 great panels went for $30. Gould's Dick Tracy went for $50. There were three or four other pieces by Rube Goldberg offered that evening and all went for prices over $50. At the end of the evening, a number of pieces of art by Bob Kane were offered at the auction. These were all part of "The Death Knocks Three Times" tale a few months back. Of these five pieces which were not full pages but either series of panels or one panel, two went for $17.50, one for $15, and two for $10. I was fortunate enough to get two of these for my collection and Bob Kane who was in the audience was kind enough to autograph them for me. The second evening of the auction, an original Terry and the Pirates done by Milton Caniff was offered on the auction block. It went for $50. A cover from FAMOUS FUNNIES donated by Steve Douglas went for $22.50. And a single panel strip done by Jerry Robinson went for $25. Jerry Robinson is the same artist who did the original Joker art in Batman #1 and who did a great deal of art for Batman comics in the 40's for which he got no credit. The prize of the Friday evening auction was a piece of work by George Herriman depicting Krazy Kat. This masterwork of humor and art went for $110. Of five pieces of Batman work offered on Friday only three went for a total of $17.50 while a second went for $15 and a third for $5. I don't know what happened to the other two pieces. These five pieces were also from the Death Knocks story. Even if you didn't have any money, this auction was a museum of comic art history for everyone to see. All the greats of the past as well as of the present were there on exhibit and for sale. I would recommend everyone who has a chance to attend the auction next year to do so just to see the art offered and to meet the people who appreciate this art whether funny, adventure, or serious political cartooning.

PAPERBACKS FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN COMICS. New American Library has issued two more books featuring tales taken from the fifties featuring Batman's fabulous foes--the Joker and the Penguin. They've changed the advertising on the back this time and they no longer say the strips in the books are the first adventures from the fifties. Most of the material in the Joker book #3 has been reprinted in annuals. But they still are not far and away the best of the Joker tales but only those for which they have proofs or art available to reproduce. A real good book on Batman versus the Joker would contain the first tale in Batman #1, The Joker origin story from Detective #168 and perhaps two or three of those drawn by Jack Sprang for Detective comics in the fifties. Jack's last work can be seen in Detective #308 where Batman battled the Flame Master. Jack's style closely followed that established by by Bob Kane in the early 40's and was very colorful as well as artistically done. I got off the subject there and got carried away for a minute by dreaming about the perfect Batman reprint books. Book #4 featuring three tales of the Penguin and one of the Catwoman is a real disappointment. All these stories were done in the era when the work on Batman was declining and it can be seen. The Catwoman tale is especially noxious when one has seen the beautiful way she was handled in the 40's and the many wonderful stories that she appeared in. Perhaps the next book will be better but I sincerely doubt it. Tower has jumped on the bandwagon and put out a paperback called DYNAMO, Man of High Camp. If you already have Thunder Agents #1, then I would suggest you pass this up. If the quality of the paper had been better and whiter, the reproduction of the black and white art by Wally Wood and Read Crandall would have been better. As it stands, this is just another book to add to your collection if you missed the original. While not a comic book reprint, PHOENIX PRIME by Ted White shows many signs of having been influenced by comic reading in his younger days. In this sci-fi novel about a man who turns into a superbeing, there are many wonderful and descriptive allusions to comics. The book is very interesting beyond the mention of comics and White is developing a definite style in his narrative. But the big encounter between his hero and the OTHERS, beings also endowed with super powers but who use them for their own good, just never comes off. It is built up nicely and then it falls on with a nothing. Perhaps the next novel will offer more and provide a better battle whether mental or physical between the main opponents. If you can pick up his first novel, Android Avenger from Ace, I would recommend your reading it. Mr. White does a good job in developing the character of an android that is more human than the people about him.

FANDOM'S FORUM. As many of you know at this time I am being considered for the post of Executive Secretary of the Academy. I have not yet heard from Paul Gambaccini as to whether I was elected by the other members of the Board or not. If you are a Board member and have not voted, I would like to have you send in a yes or no vote at the moment you read this so that some work can get started to bring Fandom back into a group again. While many of you are very disappointed in what has happened, I think that it was a good thing for all concerned. This set back has made many people aware of the fact that an Academy can be a good thing and that it can help fans in many ways. I am very anxious to get started in the position of Executive Secretary so that the Academy can begin functioning again. But for me to get started I will need the help of everyone out there who wants an Academy and of those who don't really care one way or the other. You will be reading in RB-CC soon, or have already read, the honest criticisms made of the Academy by Phil Seuling. Phil has many good points in it and I wish that everyone out there would get a copy or borrow one in order to read it. I have many ideas that I would like to state at this time and get started so that the Academy can be an operating agency through which fans and pros can get together. But I will be holding off on them until I get the A-OK sign from Paul. I have received a number of letters from you asking about the Academy and how to join. I have carefully filed away these letters and will answer them once I know which way the Academy is going. If I had my way, it would be on it's way up at this present moment.

Comically yours,

DAVID A. KALER

P.S. For those fans interested in conventions, there will be two affairs held in New York City this summer. A group of science fiction fans will hold a two day affair on July 23 and 24 at the Park Sheraton Hotel in New York City. More information can be gotten from John Benson, 207 West 80th Street, #2B, New York, New York 10024. The official Academy Con is set for August 12, 13, and 14. The Batmanians will be in on this one and many pros who work on the Batman strip will be there. Pros from such companies as Marvel, Tower, King, Charlton and Dell have also asked to be included in the Program. Persons wishing information about this Con should send a s.a.e. to me and flyers will be sent out the end of June. Ads will also appear in many fanzines. My address is Box 192, Cooper Station, New York, New York 10003.

ON THE DRAWING BOARD, the official newsletter of the Academy Of Comic Book Fans and Collectors, is published monthly by the Gateway Comic Book Fan Club, 9516 Minerva, St. Louis, Missouri 63114. Print run for this issue is 300. Print run last issue was 800 of which 500 were sent out as free sample copies. For the present time only ads for conventions will be accepted at the rate of $4 per page. Subscriptions are as follows with Academy member price first and non-member price second: Per single issue---$ .10 and $ .15; per quarter year--$ .20 and $ .35; per half year--$ .40 and $ .65; per year -$ .75 and $1.25. All checks should be made out to Robert Schoenfeld.

Well, OTDB is finally back on its regular monthly schedule. This is the way that we intend to keep it. The July issue will be sent out about July 6 and will carry full information on the St. Louis Convention in an editorial by Bob. By now you will have noticed the ad for it on page 2. I encourage all who can to attend. The presence of Read Crandall should make it a memorable event for all.

Larry Herndon is also organizing a SouthWest Con to be held in Dallas, Texas on July 22, 23, and 24. Anyone wanting further information on this should send an s.a.e. to him at 1830 Highland Drive, Carrollton, Texas 75006. Full information on this convention will also appear in OTDB #4.

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"TOO GREAT A LOAD?"

Picto Editorial

Robb Schoenherr

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